



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire

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February 10, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

By e-mail

Re: Request for support to Ottawa businesses and their employees

Further to our recent discussion and on behalf of Ottawa City Council, I am writing to request that the Government of Canada consider providing funding supports specifically focused on supporting Ottawa businesses and their employees impacted by the occupation.

I would like to draw to your attention that Ottawa City Council approved the following Motion at the Special City Council meeting of February 7, 2022:

MOTION

Moved by: Councillor L. Dudas
Seconded by: Councillor J. Harder

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has now declared a State of Emergency in response to the continued illegal occupation of Ottawa's downtown;

WHEREAS the methods used by these individuals to illegally occupy the City of Ottawa, and terrorize residents and businesses, utilize unprecedented tactics that have no place in a free and democratic society, such as Canada, and mark an intolerable departure from what could be considered lawful protest;

WHEREAS, as per the survey of more than 200 businesses conducted by the Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas (OCOBIA), almost three-quarters of businesses located in and around the downtown core have lost revenue as a direct result of the occupation;

WHEREAS that same survey found just over half of those businesses will not be able to recover the lost revenues;

WHEREAS roughly 40 per cent of businesses, mostly retailers, restaurants and services, had to close their doors for the safety of their staff and patrons. With the Rideau Centre's closure alone impacting over 1,500 employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, with the support of City Council, make a formal request to both the Provincial and Federal Governments for funding supports specifically focused on supporting Ottawa businesses and their employees impacted by the occupation.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa